

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /085 W

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R 211620Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2491

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5038

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, AL

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: MADRID 4996

SUMMARY: IN JULY 21 REVIEW FOR EMBOFF OF SPANISH SAHARA SITUATION FONMIN DIRGEN FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS (BENITO) WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF MOROCCO, DESCRIBED REPORTS OF MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN AGREEMENT AS MOROCCAN FABRICATION, RENEWED EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR SOME US PRESSURE TO GET MOROCCANS TO FOUR-POWER TALKS, AND STATED THAT FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA WOULD ATTEMPT TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AGAIN WITH SISCO THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS LENGTHY EXPOSITION BY BENITO SEEMED A REFLECTION OF GROWING IRRITATION WITH MOROCCANS. INCLUDED IN BILL OF PARTICULARS WERE CHARGES THAT (A) PRIMARY SOURCE OF RECENT ACTS OF TERRORISM IN SAHARA HAS BEEN MOROCCAN GOVT AND NOT FPOLISARIO INSURGENTS; (B) FAVORABLE ATTENTION TO MOROCCO IN SOME OF SPANISH PRESS (THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL EDITORIALS CALLING FOR BILATERAL DEAL) HAVE BEEN BOUGHT BY MOROCCO; AND (C) REPORTS OF MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN DEAL ARE MOROCCAN FABRICATION. IN CONTRAST, BENITO HAD NO REALLY CRITICAL
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WORDS FOR EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE.

3. NOT SURPRISINGLY, BENITO HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT ICJ WOULD CONTRIBUTE SOON TO SOLUTION, IMPLIED PREFERENCE FOR AVOIDING RECOURSE TO SECURITY COUNCIL AT THIS TIME, CLEARLY STILL HOPED THAT COMBINATION OF SPECIAL REP OF UN SEC GEN AND FOUR-POWER TALKS UNDER UN AUSPICES WOULD COME TO PASS, AND MENTIONED OUTRIGHT ABANDONMENT OF SAHARA BY SPAIN AS LAST, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, RESORT. WITH RESPECT TO FOUR-POWER TALKS, HE OFFERED REASSURANCE THAT ONLY SPANISH OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN SOME FORM OF GOOD CONDUCT AGREEMENT TO ASSURE PEACEFUL TRANSITION.

4. FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ROVIRA'S MID-JUNE MEETING WITH SISCO IN WASHINGTON HAD NOT APPARENTLY PRODUCED MUCH US ACTIVITY IN RABAT ON BEHALF OF FOUR-POWER TALKS, AND REPORTED THAT IT WAS ROVIRA'S INTENTION TO REOPEN THIS QUESTION WITH SISCO ON MARGIN OF THIS WEEK'S BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON.
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